

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1463

By Mr. LeDuc of Marlborough, petition of Stephen P. LeDuc and others for legislation to require the Department of Transitional Assistance to report on the use of emergency shelter services by families. Children and Families.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Stephen P. LeDuc	Shirley Gomes
Cory Atkins	Marie P. St. Fleur
John W. Scibak	Matthew C. Patrick
Mary E. Grant	Douglas W. Petersen
Michael E. Festa	Ellen Story
Patricia D. Jehlen	James B. Leary
Elizabeth A. Malia	Anthony J. Verga
Jeffrey Sanchez	John W. Scibak
Barbara A. L'Italien	Joyce A. Spiliotis
Paul J. Donato	Deborah D. Blumer
Kay Kahn	John H. Rogers
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	Walter F. Timilty

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO  
TRACK AND REPORT ON FAMILIES USE OF EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Paragraph B of Section 2 of chapter 18 of the General Laws is
- 2 hereby amended by adding after clause (i) the following clause:—
- 3 (j) Notwithstanding any other general or special law or rule
- 4 or regulation, the department of transitional assistance shall report
- 5 quarterly to the house and senate committees on ways and means
- 6 on the number of families who apply for emergency assistance
- 7 funded family shelter, the number of families approved for shelter,

8 the number of families denied shelter along with reasons for  
9 denials, the home community of families receiving shelter, the  
10 number of families receiving shelter within each home commu-  
11 nity, the number of available shelter slots within each home com-  
12 munity, the income level of families receiving shelter, the number  
13 of families receiving shelter who had previously accessed state-  
14 funded programs to reduce homelessness and the programs that  
15 had been accessed, the composition of families receiving shelter,  
16 the reason that the household is seeking emergency family shelter,  
17 the reasons that families exit shelter, including reasons for volun-  
18 tary departure and termination, exiting families' housing plans,  
19 including type of housing arrangement, subsidy status, monthly  
20 rent, and gross monthly income, and any other information that  
21 the department determines to be necessary in evaluating the opera-  
22 tion of the emergency assistance family shelters program. The  
23 report shall also include information, by type of shelter, on  
24 average length of stay, average cost per household served, average  
25 number of shelter slots not used either as the result of no place-  
26 ment being made or of a placed family not making use of shelter,  
27 and an analysis of this data, including an analysis of causes  
28 relating to any significant differences in the data for each type of  
29 shelter. The report shall also provide a status report on the out-  
30 comes of department-funded homeless prevention initiatives pro-  
31 viding information on the nature and total cost of each such  
32 initiative, the number of families served by each such initiative,  
33 the average cost per family of each such initiative, the afford-  
34 ability and stability of housing or alternative shelter placements  
35 for prevention program recipients including type of housing  
36 arrangement, subsidy status, monthly rent, and gross monthly  
37 income, and any other information that the department determines  
38 to be necessary in evaluating the operation of state-funded home-  
39 less prevention programs.